

SELF-ORANISATION



FHXB
Friedrichshain-
Kreuzberg Museum
Adalbertstr. 95a
10999 Berlin

Opening
26 August, 7pm
Exhibition duration
27 August until
12 December 2021

Tue - Thu, 12 - 6pm
Fri - Sun, 10 - 8pm
fhxb-museum.de

We'll do it ourselves, then

– 40 years of
self-organised
spaces in Berlin

Schokofabrik

HeileHaus

Casa Kuà

Regenbogenfabrik

Kinderbauernhof
am Mauerplatz

In taking part in self-organised projects, we express our wishes and our hopes for a city belonging to all. Here five self-managed projects look back on their eventful, sometimes still very young, histories, on internal conflicts, and on the social struggles in which they position themselves. With "We'll do it ourselves, then" we ask, in the form of an exhibition, how self-organised spaces keep political possibilities alive in a city under huge economic pressure.

The FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum is barrier-free. Via public transport: U1, U3, U8 Kottbusser Tor (lift, 300 m); Bus M29: Adalbertstr./Oranienstr. (120 m). The museum has gender-neutral and wheelchair-accessible toilets (partly accessible via lift with key from the Museumskontor).

Please note the current Covid-19 regulations.

Project group "We'll do it ourselves, then": Heike Böziger, Barbara Bohl, Anke Peterssen, Hermann Schlegel, Andy Wolff, Christine Ziegler.

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UND ARBEITSWELT



There was, as in the other projects I'm sure, the discussion: do we take money from the state? Does that corrupt us?

REGENBOGENFABRIK

I believe that around 100,000 people were looking for adequate housing at that time. And it made them angry, too, that so many buildings were standing empty, often in perfectly good condition, buildings where people could live well. Housing was even being damaged deliberately, preparing it for demolition. Seeing that and at the same time being under pressure and not being able to live the way they wanted to made people very angry.



Photo: Schokofabrik, 1981.

KINDERBAUERNHOF

This used to be a literal pile of rubble. Then people came up with the idea that oh, actually, it could be something else. And instead of waiting for the senate to make some kind of proposal, we said hey, we'll do it ourselves. So we rolled up our sleeves and cleaned up all the rubbish. We knew a project outside the city which had animals, so we went there and got us a goat, rabbits and some chickens, set up a few trailers... Then we had a big party and just announced it: We have occupied this place.



Photo: Kinderbauernhof, 1985.

CASA KUÀ

Casa Kuà simply came into being out of necessity, because there is no such space, not in Berlin and not across Europe. What healthcare there is in Berlin now, whether doctors or alternative medicine, is both very white and cis-gender oriented and dominated. The responses from people show how important this space is and how much it's been missing.

HEILEHAUS

The initial idea was to find a room in a squatted house to have a meeting place for alternative medicine. We wanted to go from house to house and make tea for colds, for example, and impart knowledge that people can use on their own. We distributed leaflets, for instance on kitchen herbs, what health benefits they have, and then there was Doktor-spiele, a thematic zine.

SCHOKOFABRIK

For many, many years, there was redistribution. That meant those who earned more put it into a pot and it was given to those who earned less.



CASA KUÀ

It is of course always the case that *white cis* structures have much easier access to resources such as space, knowledge, and money.

REGENBOGENFABRIK

People did in fact move out, saying "Negotiating is not really my thing." When the house was actually legalised in 1984, suddenly almost half the people were gone. They said, "I'm not here to renovate a house, that was never my desire. I wanted to achieve

something politically, but now, please do it yourselves."

REGENBOGENFABRIK

In the early 80's it would often just work out that way. Other collectives didn't have to pay much rent either. You could get by relatively easily with unemployment benefit and social welfare. There was no economic pressure. That all came later.

SCHOKOFABRIK

There is also a kind of generational transition going on at the moment. We made a conscious decision a few years ago, because so many of us are retiring soon, that it's really time to let younger people take over. And for that we also had to learn about how to become trans* inclusive, because today there are other topics and desires there.

Photo above: Street party in front of Café Schlüpber, Waldemarstraße, 1981.